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House Unit Urges Force to Bar Cambodia to Reds

By JOHN W. FINNEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13—A House Armed Services subcommittee recommended today that immediate military steps be taken to prevent Communist use of Cambodia as a sanctuary and supply base for the war in South Vietnam.

The subcommittee, which is conducting an on-the-spot investigation of military policy in Vietnam, said that while the United States was making military progress, "the progress is much too slow."

To "speed the day of victory," it said in a report to the House, the United States should do the following things:

Undertake "adequate search and surveillance" measures to prevent supplies from passing through Cambodia and to prevent Cambodia from being used by North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops as a sanctuary, regrouping and staging area.

Permit the military to attack antiaircraft positions in North Vietnam as "primary targets," even though they may be in heavily populated areas.

Cut off the port of Haiphong as a major source of war supplies for North Vietnam.

The House Unit, the Special Subcommittee on National Defense Posture, is headed by Porter Hardy Jr., Democrat of Virginia. It was set up last August to examine plans to "win the war in Vietnam" and to study the impact the war has had upon United States military readiness elsewhere in the world.

The group, which has been travelling throughout the Pacific and Southeast Asia since

Nov. 24, has been operating in considerable secrecy.

It has made no plans to release testimony it has taken from military officials, including Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of United States forces in South Vietnam.

However, an "interim, informal report" on the subcommittee's preliminary findings, was presented to the House by Representative L. Mendel Rivers, Democrat of South Carolina, who is chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Halleck a Member

Besides Mr. Hardy, the subcommittee is made up of Charles A. Halleck, Republican of Indiana, F. Edward Hebert, Democrat of Louisiana, Samuel S. Stratton, Democrat of New York, and William L. Dickinson, Republican of Alabama.

Because their position on military matters is respected, their recommendations are expected to carry considerable weight within the House and thus indirectly within the Administration.

To an extent, the recommendations reiterate earlier ones made by committee members. But the subcommittee introduced an important new element in Congressional pressure upon the Administration with its recommendations for military measures to prevent Communist use of Cambodia.

In the past, the Administration, eager to preserve the neutral status of Cambodia and to contain the war in South Vietnam, has expressed uncertainty over how much use was being made of Cambodia by the Communists. But there was no uncertainty in the subcommittee report.

There is no question that Cambodia is being used by the

North Vietnamese and the Vietcong as a sanctuary and for regrouping and staging areas in carrying out offensive actions," the subcommittee said.

Furthermore, it continued, "There is convincing evidence that supplies are coming through Cambodia via two major waterborne sources: the seaport of Sihanoukville (the main port of Cambodia) and up the Mekong river. The lower reaches of which are completely within South Vietnam."

"This must be known to Prince Sihanouk (the Cambodian chief of state), who refuses publicly to recognize it," it said.

"It is the firm view of the subcommittee that adequate search and surveillance measures are not being carried out," the report said. "Immediate steps should be taken to correct these intolerable situations."

The subcommittee did not specify what "search and surveillance measures" should be taken. However, it presumably was reflecting military proposals for naval action against shipping going into Sihanoukville and for greater leeway in operations against Communist bases on the Cambodian side of the frontier with South Vietnam.

The subcommittee did not specify what steps it believed should be taken to close Haiphong. But it said that Haiphong was "the principal point of entry" for weapons and other war materials for the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong.

It said, therefore, that "this must not be permitted to be a source of their supply."

On the air war, the subcommittee strongly opposed any temporary bombing cessation.

It also said it had learned that no air strikes were being flown specifically to destroy antiaircraft and surface-to-air missile installations.

North Vietnam has "deliberately positioned" antiaircraft installations "in heavily populated areas, being convinced that the will to escape attack," the subcommittee said.

"This is an unacceptable condition," it said. "The military should be permitted to designate these defenses as primary targets."

GI Crossings To Cambodia May Expand

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

State Department officials expressly left open yesterday the possibility that American troops increasingly may cross the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border in "self-defense" against attacking Vietcong guerrillas.

The officials sought to dispel any likelihood that such crossings into Cambodian territory would touch off major international repercussions.

It is apparent in all world capitals that the United States certainly has no intention whatever of attacking Cambodia, these officials maintained. The United States has acted, and will try to continue to act, with "maximum restraint" over the use of Cambodian border sanctuary by the Vietcong to launch attacks or rest afterward, they said.

The officials reiterated U.S. respect for the neutrality, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cambodia.

At the same time, however, officials guardedly said that the military pattern in the war may be developing in a way that can have disturbing connotations. The sequence of recent, sustained Vietcong attacks, launched in South Vietnam near the Cambodian

border, they said, suggests that the Vietcong may be going to a "strategic" or "tactical" level of very heavy casualty costs.

This mixture of oblique and direct comments was given on "background," which precludes quoting or identifying the officials, to a foreign policy at the State Department for non-governmental groups.

The Washington Post disclosed Wednesday that the Johnson Administration is now seriously restudying its policy that generally bars pursuit of Vietnamese Communist troops into neighboring Cambodia or Laos. Officials said the United States has reached "no decisions" at this point, but is simply "collecting" evidence on the scope of the problem.

Other sources said yesterday that it is most unlikely that the United States will publicly announce its decisions in any event. Officially, the United States never has acknowledged that any of its troops have crossed into Cambodia, although this is known to have occurred.

The United States presently is officially acting on a "self-defense" formulation of 1965 for its right to fire across the Cambodian or Laotian borders or otherwise to deploy its forces "to protect" its troops in the border regions. The line between "self-defense" and "hot pursuit," however, obviously is a fine one, virtually open to self-interpretation.

State Department Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey declined yesterday to be drawn into any definition of "hot pursuit" to comment on the subject.

House Armed Services Committee yesterday came additional evidence of the kind of pressures being applied to the Cambodian "sanctuary" issue.

Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) told newsmen that among recommendations which protested that military progress in Vietnam is "much too slow," was

port of Haiphong.

State's McCloskey reiterated that the United States is fully prepared "in the event" to help provide equipment and support, as requested by Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to help police Cambodia's borders.

Cambodia admits it lacks physical capabilities to halt the penetration of all Vietcong—or Americans—across its borders. Cambodia has acknowledged that "from time to time" Vietcong have entered its territory, chased by Americans. Sihanouk has made such remarks as "we captured a Vietcong who was straying astray on our territory" and "expelled him." But he insists that "there are not many who enter."

The United States supports Sihanouk's appeals for a veto-bound International Control Commission (India, Canada and Poland) to expand enough to cope with the problem. There currently are "a few flutters" of rising interest in the ICC to become better informed sources said, but no clear sign that Poland, representing the Communist nations' interests, has authority to initiate serious operations.

Viet Corruption Pacification Barrier

Wholesale corruption in the governmental and administrative structure of South Vietnam is the greatest barrier to effective "pacification" and "motivation" of its people, officials acknowledged yesterday.

The officials, who spoke at citizens' groups at a State Department briefing yesterday, could not be identified under the briefing rules.

The corruption problem exists from the top to the bottom of the South Vietnamese government, greatly